

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10924 300943Z

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 NSF-02 /020 W

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R 300934Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8939

UNCLAS PARIS 10924

DEPT FOR OES AND DR. ASTIN; PASS NBS: INSTITUTE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND DRS. PEISER AND VIETH

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN

SUBJECT: U.S. - FRENCH BILATERAL R & D COOPERATION:
BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NBS'S INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY, JAMES WRIGHT, MET WITH THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE FRENCH CENTER FOR BUILDING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CSTB) DR. ROSSI FOR CORDIAL AND FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS ON CURRENT AND PROJECTED JOINT PROGRAMS ON APRIL 24, 1975.

2. DR. WRIGHT PRESENTED A SUMMARY OF THE NBS ORGANIZATION, ITS MAJOR PROGRAM AREAS INCLUDING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BUILDING TECHNOLOGY. DR. ROSSI EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THESE ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS IN THE CONSUMER PRODUCTS PROGRAMS AND REQUESTED COPIES OF ALL THE VARIOUS NBS REPORTS MENTIONED BY DR. WRIGHT.

3. BOTH MESSRS. WRIGHT AND ROSSI SAID THAT THEY SHARED A STRONG INTEREST IN INITIATING COMPLETE ENERGY CYCLE STUDIES, FOR EXAMPLE, DETERMINING THE ENERGY COST OF A DWELLING BEGINNING WITH CALCULATIONS OF THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY REQUIRED TO ACQUIRE AND PROCESS THE BASIC BUILDING MATERIALS SUCH AS CEMENT AND WOOD. DR. WRIGHT'S TRIP REPORT WILL COVER THE DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS: THE MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

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A. MUTUAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY WHICH WAS INITIATED IN 1969. THE STATUS OF THIRTEEN SPECIFIC CURRENTLY ACTIVE PROJECTS WAS DISCUSSED. CSTB PROPOSED FIVE NEW PROJECTS AND DR. WRIGHT ADDED THREE MORE, ALL OF WHICH WERE ACCEPTED.

B. IN ADDITION TO BUILDING TECHNOLOGY, DR. ROSSI EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN FIRE TECHNOLOGY, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY, CONSUMER PRODUCT PERFORMANCE, AND ENERGY CONSERVATION. U.S. PERFORMANCE LABELLING OF BUILDING APPLIANCES, SUCH AS WINDOW AIRCONDITIONERS, CENTRAL HEATING, COOLING SYSTEMS, AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS WAS DISCUSSED BY DR. ROSSI.

C. THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS OF EVALUATION AND RATING PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY CONSERVATION, DR. ROSSI GAVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO RELATED PROPOSED AND EXISTING U.S. LEGISLATION; HE ASKED FOR COPIES OF RELEVANT BILLS AND ACTS.

D. DR. ROSSI QUESTIONED DR. WRIGHT CLOSELY ON THE RELATIVE MERITS OF VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS IN THE AREAS OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS, CONSUMER PRODUCT PERFORMANCE, AND BUILDING PERFORMANCE.

4. THE MAY-JUNE VISIT OF NBS DIRECTOR DR. ROBERTS WAS DISCUSSED AND THE DATE OF 3 JUNE 1975 WAS SELECTED FOR DR. ROSSI TO RECEIVE AND ACCOMPANY (A PRACTICE RESERVED FOR VERY DISTINGUISHED VISITORS) DR. ROBERTS ON A TOUR OF CSTB FACILITIES. DR. ROSSI ALSO EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO INVITE DR. AND MRS. ROBERTS TO A DINNER ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATE (WHICH WILL BE COORDINATED BY SCIATT AND BE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL).

5. IN ADDITION TO BEING DIRECTOR OF THE CSTB, DR. ROSSI IS ALSO THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOUSING WHO REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER FOR EQUIPMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS10924
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750151-0524
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975043/aaaaacpp.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. - FRENCH BILATERAL R & D COOPERATION: BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
TAGS: TECH, TGEN, (WRIGHT, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006